

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 INR-10 H-03 SS-20 /045 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/NC/C:JFMAISTO:JVH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CHNAVPER WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS STATE 245265

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: CO, CASC

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN CITIZEN IN COLOMBIA

REF: YOUR 121729Z DECEMBER

1. PLEASE PASS USS FRANCIS HAMMOND FOR STG2 EDWARD KAST, USN, [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 27 JUN 2013] AS FOLLOWS:

2. RENE FRANCIS KAST AND ANOTHER U.S. CITIZEN, BOTH EMPLOYEES OF U.S. OWNED INTERNATIONAL MINING COMPANY SUBSIDIARY FRONTINO GOLD MINES LIMITED, CAPTURED BY LEFTIST GUERRILLAS IN NORTHEASTERN ANTIOQUIA PROVINCE IN COLOMBIA BETWEEN TOWNS SEGOVIA AND ZARAGOZA ON OCTOBER 4. AT SAME TIME COLOMBIAN LAND OWNER WAS CAPTURED AS WELL. ALSO CAPTURED WERE KAST'S WIFE, A CHILEAN, AND AN AUSTRALIAN COUPLE. THESE THREE WERE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED. KIDNAPPERS HAVE DEMANDED MONEY RANSOM FOR THREE HOSTAGES AND ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS BY FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF VICTIMS. AT SAME TIME COLOMBIAN MILITARY IS ATTEMPTING TO TRACK DOWN GUERRILLAS AND TO RESCUE HOSTAGES. LATEST AUTHORITATIVE WORD FROM COLOMBIAN MILITARY IS THAT HOSTAGES ARE ALIVE AND IN GOOD PHYSICAL

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CONDITION.

3. IN CERTAIN PARTS OF COLOMBIA KIDNAPPINGS OF THIS TYPE HAVE OCCURRED OVER PAST FEW YEARS PERPETRATED BY BOTH OUTLAW GROUPS AND, MORE RECENTLY, POLITICAL GROUPINGS AS WELL. COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES MAINTAIN A POLICY OF NO RANSOM PAYMENT AND VIGOROUSLY ATTEMPT TO TRACK DOWN KIDNAPPERS. IN RECENT MONTHS COLOMBIAN MILITARY HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN KILLING AND CAPTURING LEFTIST GUERRILLA GROUPS.

4. DURING LAST FEW WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO REPORT.

5. ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW INFORMATION WILL BE PASSED THIS CHANNEL. RUSH

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To: NAVY CHIEF OF PERSONNEL
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